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AMERICAN NATURALIST LIST OF RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

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—Note on the Fishes of the genus *Characinus*.

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—Note on the Nomenclature of the Poecilioid Fishes.

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—Notes on the Genus *Cephaleutherus* of Rafinesque, and other Rays with Aberrant Pectoral Fins (*Propterygia* and *Hieroptera*).

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General Notes.

MINERALOGY AND CRYSTALLOGRAPHY.¹

Etched Figures on Some Minerals.—Traube² brings into deserved prominence the value of the method of etching, and gives the results of an extended series of experiments on the etched figures of a number of minerals. He mentions especially those cases in which the etched figures indicate a higher symmetry than that occasionally shown by the geometrical development of the crystal form. He evidently lays more stress on the etched figures of crystals than on the occasional growth of planes corresponding with a lower symmetry. K F and K F, H F are mentioned as giving good results in many cases where the problem is to etch one of the more refractory silicates, and a caution is given that care must be taken in the use of such powerful reagents.

On cuprite etched figures were produced by H₂SO₄, HCl, HNO₃ and KOH, dilute HNO₃ giving the sharpest figures. The etching indicates a holohedral regular symmetry, notwithstanding that Miers has observed faces of the form (986) in a position suggesting gyroidal hemihedrism.

Phosgenite gives sharp figures with hydrochloric, sulphuric, nitric and acetic acids, also with the caustic alkalies, all pointing toward holo-

¹ Edited by Prof. A. C. Gill, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

² Neues Jahrb. B. B. X, pp. 454-469, 1896.